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CAMPUS MINISTERS MEET IN CAMBRIDGE

by Salome Breck

Editor, The Colorado Episcopalian

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- Campus ministry in the Episcopal Church is a many faceted work. It can be challenging, innovative and creative. It can also be routine and non-productive.

Its potential was quickly apparent when 70 members of ESMHE (the Episcopal Society for Ministry in Higher Education) gathered at the Episcopal Divinity School here in late June. This was their twelfth annual meeting. The focus for both worship and program centered on today's world as it is concerned with problems of space, science and the future,

Bishop Daniel Corrigan was chaplain for the four "Eucharistically centered" days, relating past problems of God's people, the Children of Israel, to those of today.

The Bishop's theme was augmented with liturgy written for the occasion by the Rev. Alvin Kershaw, author, jazz expert, and rector of Emmanuel, Boston.


Bringing the message of the four Eucharists down to the day-by-day level of living were two writers who presented the Wednesday program, Donella Meadows and Jeremy Rifkin.

Host Bishop John B. Coburn welcomed the ESMHE group to "this 'hub of the universe' as it has been called, where 68 institutions of higher education serve 225,000 students."

ESMHE's president, the Rev. Wofford Smith, is chaplain at the University of Maryland Chapel, College Park. "We are here to make the case for college work, and give all of you a chance to talk ESMHE together," he observed.

Smith explained the two goals he had set for the year: new ways to develop closer ties with parish congregations near campuses, and a more productive relationship with the national Church. Of both goals he said, "We have made a good start."

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Donnella Meadows is the author, along with her husband Denis, of the book, Limits to Growth. She related problems of science and ecology to the predicament in which mankind finds itself: coping in a world with too much pollution, too many people, and not enough food. She is a member of the Dartmouth College faculty.

Jeremy Rifkin is co-author of the recent book, The Emerging Order: God in an Age of Scarcity. He is founder of the Peoples' Bicentennial Commission, and co-director of the Peoples' Business Commission in Washington. He sees religion as furnishing the impetus for a major cultural reformation.

Many patterns of campus ministry were represented at the ESMHE meeting. The group of priests who did the planning as hosts are excellent examples of cooperative work. They are: Colin Gracey, chairman and chaplain at Northeastern; Stewart Barnes, of Harvard University; Rona Harding and Michael Corrigan, of Boston University; Scott Paradise of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

ESMHE business sessions included elections and a decision to continue ecumenical work on campuses in spite of some weaknesses in the system.

President Smith was elected to a second term. Province Coordinators are appointed out of the national Church. They plan and chair province meetings on campus ministry.

The Rt. Rev. Eliot Sorge heads the Education for Mission and Ministry at the Church Center and the Rev. James J. McNamee is the national coordinator for Ministry in Higher Education. He was present at the Cambridge meet.

Province I has as its coordinator David Ames, chaplain at Brown University; Province II, Tim Cogan, Princeton University; Province III, Wofford Smith, ESMHE president; IV, John Talbird, University of Florida, Gainesville; V, Timothy Hallett, University of Illinois, Champaign; VI, James Diamond, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; VII, Dixie Hutchinson, Dallas; and VIII, Ann Merryman, Oakland, Calif.

Formerly, Provinces I and II shared a member on the ESMHE Steering Committee. In Cambridge, individual representation was voted for Province I, and David Ames was elected.

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Other members of the Steering Committee elected for the coming year are: Province II (Northeast) Gurdon Brewster, Cornell University, Ithaca; Province III (Mid-Atlantic) Wofford Smith; IV (Southeast) Henry N. F. (Nick) Minich, rector, the Venerable Bede parish and chaplain, University of Miami, Coral Gables; V (Midwest-Eastern) John Mitman, Michigan State University, Lansing; VI (Midwest-Western) Brent Bohlke, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; VII (Southwest) Sam Criss, Wichita State University, Wichita, Ka., who is secretary-treasurer; VIII (West Coast) Peter Haynes, University of California, Berkeley.

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PICTURE CAPTION

80249 The twelfth annual meeting of the Episcopal Society for Ministry in Higher Education brought together on the Episcopal Divinity School campus in Cambridge, Mass. college chaplains and other Episcopalians concerned with college ministry for a four-day exploration of that field in the 1980's. The past and current presidents of the group gathered during a break to chat about the growth and future of the nationwide network. They are, from left: the Rev. Messers Tom Woodward, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Wofford Smith, who was elected this year to his second term, University of Maryland Chapel, College Park; John Morrell, Texas Southern University, Houston; Bill Starr, Columbia University, N.Y.C.; David Fly, Kansas State, Manhattan; and James Diamond, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

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